THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRl BRAHM DUTT): *{&)* While various contingency plans are made decisions on imports are considered as and when necessary to meet the gap between demand and supply of petroleum products including pertol. While jt is possible to augment the production of petrol in the existing refineries to meet the rising demand, provisions are normally made to meet spot situations|maintenance of inven. tories etc.

(b) Yes, Sir. The automobile policy consciously encourages manufacture of fuel effijcient cars leading to lower consumption of petrol.

(c) During the year 1987-88 about 15600 tonnes of petrol were imported at a cost of Rs. 3. 65 crores. Estimates of such expenditure during next year can be made only if and when any import is made.

Shortage of coal in thermal power projects

**95* SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the shortage of coal has hit thermal power-projects namely, NTPC's Vindhyachal and Rihand projects and they could not start commercial production as per schedule; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government for resuming un interrupted supply of coal to these pro jects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The first unit of 210 MW of Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station (6x210 MW) of National Thermal-Power Corporation was synchronized in October, 1987 After the trial run for a few days, it was shut down for rectification of the defects noticed. The unit was put on coal firing on 21-2-1988. Atpresent, there is nodifficulty in itsoperation as the PowerStation has acoal stock of 55, 000 tonnes.

The units of Rihand STPS (2x500 MW) have yet been commissioned.

Increase in the prices of Petroleum Products

*96. SHRI KALPNATH RAI;
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSSAWAHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the prices of petrol/petroleum products were increased recently;

(b) if so, what are the details or. the Increase in terms of percentage and the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the likely impact of the increase in prices on the consumers^ general price level and the economy of the country as a whole;

(d) whether Government have re, ceived any representations from pub-lie against this price rise and

(e) if so what is Governments reac tion thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The prices of Motor Spirit of all grades only were increased by 1000/ per KL w. e. f, 9-1-1988. This amounts to an increase of 14. 9 per cent in the ex-storage point price. This has beer* made in view of the steep rise in the rate of consumption of petrol. This price increase will also help conserve foreign exchange.

(c) The contribution of this pricerise in petrol upto 23-1-1988 has been2. 2 per cent of the increase of 9. 8 percent in the Wholesale Price Index, i. e.

0. 2156 per cent only of the increase in the WPI. It is expected to curb consumption of petrol and encourage efficient use of petrol besides helping to conserve foreign exchange.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Government do not consider it expedient in the public interest to bring down the price of petrol.

Financial performance of public sector industries

*97. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of IN. DUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the financial perfor, mance of public sector industries both under the direct control of Govern ment and the public corporations;

(b) whether the generation of resources °f the public sector is in 'accord with the 8th Five Year Plan projections; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Perhaps the Hon'ble Member is referring to the financial performance Qf central public sector undertakings set up as Government Companies or statu-* tory bodies. Detailed financial per-formance of such undertakings is given in the Public Enterprises Survey 1986-87 laid on the Table of the House on 25th February 1988.

(b) and (c) Do not arise as the 8th Five Year Plan is yet to be formulated.

Issuance of commemorative stamps

*98. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the eminent persons in whose honour Government have issued commemorative stamps during the last two months; and

(b) the names of the eminent per* sons to honour whom Government propose to issue commemorative stamps during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Eminent persons on whom Comme' morative Stamps have been issued during the last two months *i. e.* lanu-ary & February, 1988 are:

(1) Balgandharva
(2) B. N. Rau
(3) Chandra Shekhar Azad
(4) Dr. S. K. Sinha
(5) Mohan Lal Sukhadia
(6) U. Tirot Sing

(b) Eminent persons tentatively decided so far 'for the issue of Commemorative Stamps during remaining part of the year 1988 are:

(1) Baba Kharak Singh
(2) Dr. D. V. Gundappa (3>
Dr. Y. S. Parmar
(4) Dr. Anugrah Narain Singh
(5) Durga Das Rathore
(6) Kuladhor Chaliha
(7) Mahamahopadhyaya GopinathKaviraj
(8) Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad
(9) Maharishi Dadhichi
(10) Maharaja Swatt Thirunal
(11) Mannathu Padmanabhan
(12) Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant
(13) Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru
(14) Rani Avanti Bai
(15) Rani Durgavati
(16) Sir Mohd. Iqbal
(17) Sheikh Mohd. Abdullah
(18) Sh. Sunder Lal Sharma
(19) Sh. K. M. Munshi
(20) Sh. Shiv Prasad Gupta
(21) Sarat Chander Bose
(22) Samrath Swami Ram Dass